

# Meeting Minutes

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## Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Tuesday, August 25, 2015 – Minneapolis Central Library

**Meeting attendees:** Ishmael Israel, David Zaffrann, Tessa Wetjen, David Boyd, Antione Martinneau, Nasser Mussa, Jeanne Montrese, Denis Houle, Debra Behrens, Nick Cichowicz and Braulio Carrasco.

**NCEC members excused:** Doron Clark, Eric Gustafson and Raya Esmaeili.

**NCEC members absent:** Queen Kimmons and Francisco Segovia.

### 1. Public Comment

No members of the public were present to speak during this allotted time period.

### 2. Introductions

**Call to order:** Chair Israel called the August 25, 2015 meeting to order at 5:14p.m.

**Approve Agenda:**

**Motion:** Wetjen, seconded by Boyd to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. One Minneapolis Fund Report from Asian Media Access

Wetjen introduced Angie Wang of Asian Media Access who presented an update of their work regarding the One Minneapolis Fund project. Asian Media Access created an interactive map that mapped out the assets in the community on the City's North side. They held many public meetings to get input from community members.

**Comments:**

- Boyd asked if the map was showing rental property vs. race. And asked if the fitness centers on the map are actually parks.
  - Ms. Wang replied that yes, the parks are considered fitness centers on the map. Regarding housing, because of the tornado, there is an opportunity to build new housing.
- Israel asked if Asian Media Access collaborated with neighborhoods or cultural organizations.
  - Ms. Wang replied that they are working with the Northside Redevelopment Council, the Urban League and the Hmong International Academy.
- Mussa asked if they've been doing their outreach in other languages.

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Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

- Ms. Wang responded that they had been able to provide translation when needed.
- Wetjen asked if there has been targeted outreach to the Hmong Community.
  - Ms. Wang responded that they've attended the Hmong soccer and flag football games. It is a good method of outreach in that community.
- Houle thanked Ms. Wang for the presentation and noted that it's good to see where the One Minneapolis Fund dollars are going. He also noted that there is a serious problem with the empty park across Hwy 55. There is no safe way to children to cross that busy street to get to the park, so it sits empty.

## 4. Executive Committee Reports

**Chair's Report:** Chair Israel welcomed the commission.

**Agenda:** Israel moves to approve the agenda with one change, to strike agenda item 6a. Neighborhoods 2020, because there will be no update in Gustafson's absence. Wetjen seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Secretary's Report:**

### 1. Minutes:

**Motion:** Houle moves to approve the July 2015 minutes. Behrens seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Attendance Report:** There is a quorum present with 11 Commissioners in attendance. Commissioners Clark, Gustafson and Esmaeili are excused from the August meeting.

**3. District 3 Election Results:** An Election in NCEC district 3 was held on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and neighborhoods from NCEC district 3 elected Jeanne Montrese.

**4. Bylaws Task Force:** Every 2 years the commission must review their bylaws. The executive Committee would like to organize a Task Force to review the bylaws and recommend any changes to the full commission. Commissioners Carrasco, Boyd and Zaffrann would like to serve on the Bylaws Task Force. Zaffrann would like to serve as the convener for the first meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Wetjen moves Commissioners Carrasco, Boyd and Zaffrann, with Zaffrann as the convener for the first meeting as members of the 2016 Bylaws Task Force. Boyd seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## 5. 2016 NCR Budget

NCR staff member Howard Blin gave a brief overview to the commission of the 2016 NCR Budget. He noted:

- Total spending for 2016 is essentially at the same level as 2015 – approximately \$6.8 million. Direct year to year comparisons are difficult since fund balance from the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District is shown in the budget for the first time.

- Funding for the Community Participation Program, which provides funding to neighborhoods, is at the previously programmed level of \$3.9 million
- General fund revenue is reduced from \$425,415 in 2015 to \$175,000 in 2016. The follows the trend in the past two years of reductions in general fund allocations and a shift to TIF revenues.
- Spending on the One Minneapolis Fund is proposed at the same level of \$182,000.
- One new position has been recommended for the department. This position would work on enhancing accessibility to City programs and services for persons with disabilities and the implementation of the new ADA transition plan. The job will also work on implementing the Limited English Proficiency Plan.

**Comments:**

- Israel asked how inflation gets taken into account for funding allocations.
  - Yes, that is figured into the funding allocations for each year.
- Wetjen stated that if there is any increase in TIF revenue the increase should go to neighborhood organizations.
- Behrens questioned how the department's budget can be status quo, when general funds are being reduced. Where are the extra funds coming from? The TIF district.
  - Yes, the department is shifting to TIF revenues.

## 6. Neighborhoods

**B. Community Connections Conference:** Staff would like to formally ask the commission to approve Commissioners Cichowicz, Carrasco and Mussa to the conference planning committee. The Commission approved Commissioners Cichowicz, Carrasco and Mussa to serve on the conference planning team.

**C. NRP Fund Balance:** NCR staff Howard Blin gave an overview of the [NRP Fund Balance](#). He noted On November 17, 2014, the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee of the Minneapolis City Council directed NCR staff to “engage neighborhood associations and the NCEC in developing policy and procedural recommendations for the Council which would establish guidelines for allowable balances of unspent NRP fund allocations and require any neighborhood association not meeting those guidelines to develop a plan with specific timelines on how they will use those funds, as well as developing reporting and monitoring procedures for the deployment of these resources. Staff is to present a draft policy recommendation to Council no later than May 31, 2015.”

NCR Staff reviewed past reports and analysis, such as the recent Neighborhood Board Diversity Survey, to develop initial guidelines. Based on this analysis, staff developed an online survey, and requested neighborhood organizations share the link and encourage board members and others to participate in the survey.

NCR staff developed draft guidelines, and distributed to all neighborhood organizations via email, regular mail, and on the NCR website for a 45-day review and comment period. Deadline for comments was June 26, 2015. The comments received are included in the draft policy.

NCR staff held two informational meetings with neighborhoods to share background information and listen and respond to comments and questions.

The NRP Policy Board will be asked to act on the proposed policy at their September 15 meeting. A final report will be provided to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee (HECE) of the City Council on September 28.

**Comments:**

- Zaffrann asked if staff plans to adjust the policy based on feedback received.
  - Yes, there may be a few tweaks based on feedback.
- Boyd asked how this will affect smaller organizations. Some don't even have Phase I funds allocated. He also asked what happens to the CEE money that was recaptured by the NCR department.
  - Most neighborhoods get to the 7 year threshold. Staff wants to make sure that neighborhoods are working on using the funds rather than sitting on them. The CEE money is still in neighborhoods plans; the City did not recapture any of it.
- Houle said that he's in agreement with some of the comments that there is nothing in law that states that the money must be used in 7 years. However, personally thinks is a reasonable time for neighborhoods to spend money. What legal justification does the City have for retaking these funds?
  - It can be made into City policy. If the state law is silent on something, the City can clarify it, but cannot go against it.
- Mussa asked what the City would do with the recaptured funds.
  - Not sure, because the City has never crossed that bridge before.

## 7. Community Engagement

- A. Blueprint for Equitable Engagement:** Director Rubedor reviewed the [Draft Blueprint for Equitable Engagement document](#). He noted that there were two public meetings in order for the public to give input on the document. NCR staff is now compiling the comments and feedback and will come back with an updated version of the document in the fall. Staff would like to hold a Committee of the Whole meeting with the NCEC to get their input.

**Comments:**

- Boyd asked if the document should the European immigrants that we have in Minneapolis.
- Houle commented that the article in the Southwest Journal acted like this was the final copy of the Blueprint; this is the 1<sup>st</sup> step and the roughest of rough drafts.
- Wetjen stated that we need to discuss when the commission could possibly meet to discuss the Blueprint.
- Israel stated that there might be value in having a narrow focus of in terms of outreach to underrepresented communities.
- Behrens stated that she believes that the process that NCR has used to share with the commission this document and the NRP Fund Balance document has not been good

ones. It is confusing and feels rushed as to what the role of the commission is for both of these.

## 8. Policy

- A. **Policy Task Force:** Wetjen shared with the Committee a [process for presenting policy to the commission and City Council](#).

**Motion:** Wetjen moves that the commission receive the general policy process as an operating procedure of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission to weigh in on policy issues in the City. Zaffrann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting adjourned at 7:05p.m.